

News in Review

Periodic Mailing from the
South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
Review and Compliance Division
May 2009

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1. American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Updates

On March 26, 2009 the federal government's Office of Management and Budget issued guidance that recognizes compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is required for Recovery Act projects. This means that federal agencies must consider the potential impact of Recovery Act projects, like all federal funding, on historic properties. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office is part of the federal agency process. For more information about the consultation process please see <http://shpo.sc.gov/revcomp>. If you will be submitting a Recovery Act project for SHPO review, please read and follow the instructions for the Project Review Form and fill it out completely to insure a timely turn around. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. **Please be advised: with the influx of ARRA projects we are taking our full 30 days to review. Please plan accordingly so that you can meet your deadlines. There will be no exceptions or rush reviews.**

Governor Mark Sanford has appointed Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom as chairman of the South Carolina Stimulus Oversight, Accountability and Coordination Task Force. For more information see this website <http://www.stimulus.sc.gov>, which includes links to information about how specific funds are being allocated in South Carolina.

National preservation organizations have also created websites about the economic stimulus funding:

National Trust for Historic Preservation <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/public-policy/perfect-storm/stimulus-101.html>

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <http://www.achp.gov/recovery/>

2. Ocean and Coastal Management Act Revisions

DHEC and SHPO are currently revising policy in regards to the Ocean and Coastal Management Act. Until the revisions are complete, MOA and covenant reviews will be on a case by case basis. When the new MOA is finalized, we will post it on our website.

3. ArchSite Changes

Due to the recent financial downturn and subsequent state budget cuts, the ArchSite Steering Committee has revised the fee structure for accessing ArchSite.

Up to this point, non-profit and government agencies have been allowed free access to the system and for-profit firms were asked to pay a fee based on the projected annual operating costs for the ArchSite application. Due to the difficult economic climate, many for-profit companies have been unable to afford the subscription, which has severely hampered needed revisions and enhancements to ArchSite. In light of this, the ArchSite Steering Committee decided a reduction in the existing fee for for-profit agencies and the addition of a small fee for non-profits would result in more agencies being able to benefit from 24 hour, off-site Internet access, which is a cornerstone of the ArchSite application, and at the same time increase the overall net income from the subscription fees.

The annual fee is now \$300 for non-profit, educational, local, state, and federal agencies, and \$600 for for-profit agencies. The annual fee will cover subscription from July 1st to June 30th. To renew an existing ArchSite subscription, the subscribing agency does not need to do any additional paperwork. A check for the appropriate amount, based on the agency's for-profit or non-profit status, should be made payable to the University of South Carolina and mailed to the ArchSite Administrator at the address provided below. The deadline for receiving payment in order to maintain subscription level access is June 30th, 2009.

Agencies which have not previously completed the subscription paper work (the license agreement and subscription request form) should contact the ArchSite administrator for instructions or refer to the ArchSite Web site. Any questions regarding the ArchSite subscription fee should be directed to Carmen Beard, the ArchSite administrator, or Rebekah Dobrasko, Supervisor of Compliance, Tax Incentives, and Survey Programs for the State Historic Preservation Office.

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4. 2nd Annual Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Festival

SHPO will be participating in this year's "Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Festival" on Saturday, May 30th from 3pm to 8pm at the Columbia Canal and Riverfront Park. We will be exhibiting from 3 until 6. The Columbia Canal is a National Register Historic District. We will be displaying information regarding the Historic District, as well as our programs and services. The festival will

include live music, crafters/artisans, and food (it's not all educational!); the admission is \$5 at the gate.

5. SC ArchCat Now Online

In 2005, the SC State Library awarded the SC Dept of Archives & History a \$158,650 grant to convert our outdated in-house DOS-based AIIMS catalog to a Web-accessible Windows based version, SC Archives Catalog (SC ArchCat). The grant project goals were to save, protect, and properly maintain catalog data and to make this extensive data on holdings available online for wider public access. (Much of the catalog data had been developed in the early to mid- 1990s with the assistance of a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.)

Though visitors to our Reference Room have long been able to access our DOS-based AIIMS catalog, Web-accessible information on holdings was limited to summary lists of records series for state agencies and local governments. Now researchers can access our catalog from anywhere and search extensive records descriptive information, including individual folder listings within boxes. The SC ArchCat address is <http://rediscov.sc.gov/scar/>.

Visit the site and let us know what you think of it. Special thanks for making SC ArchCat possible goes to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which provides the funding administered by the SC State Library.

6. "Writing Effective Agreement Documents" Material Online

On March 26, 2009, the Review and Compliance team put on a workshop on writing effective agreement documents for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and for Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Act projects. The PowerPoints that accompanied this workshop are now available online. Visit <http://shpo.sc.gov/conf/landpconference> for copies of these PowerPoints.